

REMEDATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR
July 7, 2000

BROWNFIELD SITE ASSESSMENT GRANTS

DNR is announcing its new grant program for local governments, the Brownfield Site Assessment Grant (SAG). The SAG allows local governments to begin investigating and remediating a property with known or suspected environmental contamination. Any local government can apply. Eligible activities include:

- Phase I and II environmental assessments;
 - site investigation;
 - demolition of any structures or buildings;
 - asbestos abatement, if it's a necessary part of demolition activity;
- and
- removal and proper disposal or treatment of abandoned containers, underground hazardous substance storage tank systems, or underground petroleum product storage tank systems.

Applications for small grants (\$2,000 to \$30,000) are due August 1, 2000. Applications for large grants (\$30,000 to \$100,000) are due November 1, 2000. If there is enough funding, there will be another round for small grants, with applications due November 1, 2000. You may download the application from DNR's Community Financial Assistance Website at

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/EL/Section/apppacket.pdf>
or call the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment's Information Line to order a copy at 1-800-367-6076 (in-state long distance) or 608-264-6020 (Madison area and out-of-state long distance). For more detailed information on the grants, see RR-652, an informational factsheet at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR652.pdf>

If you have further questions, please call Percy Mather (Remediation and Redevelopment) at (608) 266-9263 or Valarie Thomas (Community Financial Assistance) at (608) 267-7153.

NEW ON THE WEB

The order of the Natural Resources Board (NRB) amending rules to implement a geographic information system registry of closed remediation sites, to replace recording of groundwater use restrictions, is on the web at

http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/wi_regs/index.htm

The NRB has approved holding public hearings on these proposed revisions to chapters NR 716, 726, 749, 811 and 812 in mid August. The hearings have not been scheduled yet. Currently, NR 726 requires a responsible party to record a groundwater use restriction at the county register of deeds office when closing a site with groundwater contamination which exceeds NR 140 enforcement standards. The revisions are being proposed due to the lack of easy access to county register of deeds records to review groundwater use restrictions, and in response to a provision in the budget bill providing funding for development of a geographic information system (GIS). The GIS system would replace the current groundwater use restriction requirement with a more accessible database that will provide the information necessary to make decisions on well construction. DNR will be working with external parties, such as realtors, mortgage insurance companies and lenders to help close the loop on buyers' "right to know", regarding residual contamination on properties being sold. The proposed revisions would initiate a new fee for sites closed with groundwater enforcement standard exceedances,

to cover the cost of including the site on the GIS database. The revisions would also establish a new setback distance of 1200 feet from the boundary of contaminated properties when communities plan a new community water supply system, but variances for lesser setback distances are allowed.

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